



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

May 6, 2005

For Immediate Release

Contact: Councilman Rod Tam – 216-5454 (cellular)

To: News Media

From: Councilman Rod Tam

Re: Honolulu Memorial Park Update – Water Turned Back On

The water will be turned back on at the end of today, May 6, 2005, at Honolulu Memorial Park; just in time for Mother's Day weekend. Honolulu Memorial Association (HMA), the entity responsible for the cemetery's maintenance, has finally decided to pay the past due water bill thanks to the urging of Rod Tam and Vic Hejmadi, who are volunteers in an effort to restore proper maintenance and operations to Honolulu Memorial Park. At this time, however, there are other outstanding bills that need to be paid. The current outstanding balance on the cemetery's electric bill is \$798.16. The current outstanding balance for trash pickup is \$885.41. All current and future utility bills are the responsibility of Honolulu Memorial Association (HMA).

According to the bylaws registered under the State of Hawaii, Honolulu Memorial Association (HMA) is responsible for the perpetual care of the cemetery. Because HMA has been negligent in its care for the cemetery, Rod Tam is openly calling for Vicky Kim and Sonny Poe Ching, two of the three trustees of HMA, to step down from their positions. Ms. Kim and Mr. Ching's negligence has resulted in the steady deterioration of Honolulu Memorial Park. The only trustee who is diligently working with Rod Tam and Vic Hejmadi is Bruce Matsui.

Also of significant importance: This week Rod Tam and Vic Hejmadi met with the State Attorney General's Office. The State Attorney General's office has finally agreed to assist Honolulu Memorial Park in reinstating its license to operate. An outline of the proceedings will be publicly disclosed next week.

Finally, Rod Tam is requesting that people who visit the cemetery take home their trash due to the absence of trash pick up service (there will be no trash pick up service until HMA pays the outstanding balance). Currently, there is a large amount of trash being dumped by the dumpsters near the cemetery office. This is creating a health hazard in that it attracts rodents, flies and roaches to the area. Rod Tam is asking for cooperation by people visiting the park to prevent unsanitary conditions that will be scrutinized by the State Department of Health. If this trash problem persists, the cemetery will be closed to everyone. **Please do not be a litterbug. This is the home of your beloved ones.** Happy Mother's Day!!!! From Rod Tam & Vic Hejmadi

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